

TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB BULLETIN

(Registered at the G.P.O., Hobart, for transmission
by post as a periodical)

Price, 20 cents p.a.

No.122

January 1968.

Principal Officers;

President; Mrs. E. H. Stephens,
11 Hazell St.,
Blackman's Bay, 7152.

Hon. Secretary;
Miss A. F. Cooper,
48 Creek Rd.,
New Town, 7008.

Hon. Treasurer;
Mr. L. E. Wall,
63 Elphinstone Rd.,
North Hobart, 7000.

The Club's address is - G.P.O. Box 68A, Hobart,
7001.

T.F.N.C. Bulletin

January 1968.

GREETINGS.

This is not the prime purpose of this special issue of the Bulletin, but we take the opportunity to wish all our members A BRIGHT AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

LONG WEEKEND, 27th - 29th JANUARY 1968.

In our last Bulletin we mentioned a suggestion that members might camp together at Okehampton, via Triabunna. Approval has now been obtained from the owner of the property, so we hope that there will be a good attendance.

Members must make their own arrangements for camp gear, food, water and transport. Please note particularly that water is not available at the campsite.

The beach is well sheltered except from easterly weather, it is backed by light bushland and the coastal scenery is excellent. It is safe for swimming and there is fishing off the rocks if you wish.

Directions to car drivers - Turn off the Tasman Highway at Triabunna and follow the road past the hotel and across a small bridge. At this point make local enquiries for the road to Okehampton as there are several alternatives, only one of which will help you. Having found the right one proceed east for about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles till a gate is reached. Don't go through the gate but take the bush track leading to the right, it is sandy in places but in quite reasonable condition, and the beach is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away.

Some people will be travelling down on Friday evening; with daylight saving there will be ample time to pitch camp before dark.

T.F.N.C. Bulletin

January 1968.

THE CLUB'S CAMP GEAR. The Committee has decided to dispose of all the gear as it has not been used for some years. If any members wish to purchase any items they are asked to apply to the Treasurer, Leonard Wall.

ADULT EDUCATION BOARD SCHOOLS.

We have been advised of two forthcoming schools which should be of interest to members.

- (1) "Highland Vegetation" with Prof. W. Jackson at Lake Dobson at the long weekend, 1st - 4th March. This should be a very good follow-up to our last Easter Camp.
- (2) "Birds" with L. E. Wall at "The Grange", Campbell Town, for the weekend 23rd - 25th February.

Full details may be obtained from the Adult Education Board offices in Hobart.

BIRD OBSERVERS' GROUP will meet at the Wireless Inst. Room, 2nd Floor, 147 Liverpool St., Hobart, at 8 p.m. on Friday, 2nd February. Please note that this is not the usual meeting night.

ANNUAL MEETING. This is a preliminary notice of the meeting on Thursday, 15th February, at 7.45 p.m. Please make every effort to attend. We hope, too, that there will be many members willing to accept nomination for office bearers, and it's not too early to start thinking about that - now!

EASTER CAMP.

Committee members would be glad to receive suggestions as to a site for this year's camp.

L. E. Wall,
for HON. SECRETARY.

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North Hobart, 7000.

The Club's address is - G.P.O. Box 68A, Hobart, 7001.

Annual Subscriptions (including the cost of this Bulletin and "The Tasmanian Naturalist") are due on 1st. January.

Ordinary Membership	\$2.50
Family Membership	3.50
Junior Membership (under 16)	4.50. 1.00

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held in The Royal Society's Room, Tasmanian Museum, Hobart, on Thursday, 15th February 1968 at 7.45 p.m. After formal business has been completed the retiring President, Mrs. E.H. Stephens, will deliver the Presidential Address.

Members are reminded that nominations for all office bearers are required, and a form for your use is printed on the last page of this Bulletin. Positions to be filled are:

President, 2 Vice-presidents, Hon. Secretary, Asst. Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, 6 Committee members.

We also need delegates to other Bodies, as follows:

Federation of F.N. Clubs of Tas. (2), Conservation Committee (2), South-West Committee (1).

FIELD OUTING. It has been decided to make this a camp at Mt. Field National Park on 17th - 18th February to commence a botanical survey of a small area, as outlined by Prof. Jackson at last Easter Camp. Mr. Hurburgh has booked 2 huts for Saturday night only. If any members wish to travel on Friday night they should arrange that night's accommodation with the Ranger.

Each member should take a ball of string, notebook and pencil, and botany books if available.

It is hoped to commence work at 9 a.m. on Saturday, and members are asked to be present at that time if possible.

EASTER CAMP. It has been suggested that Maria Island should be visited this year. There are some problems in this proposal and there will be a discussion at the Annual General Meeting. If you have any other ideas they would be welcome.

CAMP GEAR. The Club's equipment was valued recently at \$1700, and we have since received an offer of \$500 from National Fitness Council. The Committee will refer this matter to the Annual General Meeting.

ADULT EDUCATION BOARD SCHOOLS. Two have been brought to our notice :-

- (1) "Highland Vegetation", with Prof. W. Jackson at Lake Dobson at the long weekend, 1st - 4th March. This should be a good follow-up to our last Easter Camp, and an opportunity for those who missed last year to catch up.
- (2) "Tasmanian Birds" with L. E. Wall at The Grange, Campbell Town, on 23rd - 25th February.

Full details may be obtained from A.E.B. offices in Hobart.

NOMINATION FOR MEMBERSHIP RECEIVED AT LAST MEETING (November)

Dr. P. S. Lake, c/o Zoology Dept., University of Tas.

NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICE BEARERS. 1968

I hereby nominate

for the office of

for the year 1968.

Nominator

Seconder

I agree to accept this nomination

.....

Date

EXPRESS MAIL TO
PRIVATE BOX NO.
EXPEDITED
DELIVERY

G.P.O.
HOBART
T A 12 FEB 5
S 1968
PAID

MR. G. A. MAJOR,
23 RIVERVIEW PDE.,
ROSETTA. 7010.

NEXT MEETING:

This will be held in the Royal Society's Room, Tasmanian Museum, on Thursday, 18th April, commencing at 7.45 p.m.

A nature colour film "Memorial to Crosby Morrison" - reputedly an excellent production - will be screened.

NEXT OUTING:

Mr Major will lead this trip to caves on the slopes of Mt Faulkner. The Claremont-Abbotsfield Road bus leaving the city at 9.00 a.m. on Saturday, 20th April should be taken to the terminus. (*Creswell's service from opposite Prince Theatre*)

NEW MEMBERS:

At the general meeting held on 21st March, 1968, nominations for membership were received for Miss C.Scott and Messrs K.Keenan, I.Lee, and C.Williams.

Mr D. Escott was duly elected to membership.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

The Treasurer would be pleased to receive outstanding subscriptions for 1968.

EASTER CAMP REMINDERS:

- a. Private cars may be left over Easter in the Triabunna Police Station yard.
- b. Return boat fare is \$3.00.
- c. First boat trip - 9.00 a.m. Friday; second boat trip approximately 11.45 a.m.
- d. Campers MUST arrange with Mr Lodum (the Skipper) the details of return boat trip.
- e. On arrival maps may be obtained from Mr Van Munster.
- f. Mr Thomas will oversee the distribution of living space.
- g. Toilet facilities are practically nil.

Persons with queries concerning any of the above matters may contact any of the below Office Bearers.

PRESIDENT: Mrs T.L. Stephens,
11 Hazell St.,
Blackman's Bay. 7152.

SECRETARY: Mr G.A. Major,
23 Riverview Pde.,
Rosetta. 7010. Ph. 72 6723

TREASURER: Mr L.E. Wall,
63 Elphinstone Rd.,
North Hobart. 7000.

TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB
G.P.O. Box 68A, Hobart. 7001.

Next Meeting:

This will be held in the Royal Society's Room, Tasmanian Museum on Thursday 16th May 1968 at 7.45 p.m. The speaker will be Dr Luandos, an archeologist and anthropologist who has been making a study of Tasmanian aborigines. It is probable that his illustrated talk will be about this subject.

Next Field Outing:

Mrs Stephens will lead a trip to Marion Bay on Saturday May 18th. Private transport will leave from outside the Prince Theatre, Macquarie St. at 9.30 a.m. It will be necessary for those going to take their own drinking water with their lunches.

New Members:

At the April meeting a nomination was received for Mr A. Cruickshank. Miss C. Scott and Messrs K. Keenan, I. Lea & C. Williams were duly elected to membership.

Federation of Field Naturalists' Clubs of Tasmania.

The Club has received the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in March. A motion was passed which now requires that a quarterly report be circulated to all member clubs.

Other motions dealing with changes in the organisation of the Federation were that two ^{meetings} ~~outings~~ per year be held instead of only one as at present, and that the venue of meetings be varied, with the host club organising the meeting, billets and an outing. The concern of the Federation with conservation was reflected in the wide variety of topics brought up for discussion. These included:-

1. Pollution of the Savage & Pieman Rivers - a temporary situation which would cease (??) when the settling areas were brought into operation.
2. Representation on the ^{be} Scenery Preservation and other Boards for the Federation is to be pressed.
3. Objections were raised to the propagation of pheasants anywhere in Tasmania except on King Island.
4. The effect of pesticides on wildlife received considerable airing.
5. Full support was given to the proposal to get a National Park in the Norfolk Ranges.
6. The Federation will affiliate with the I.C.B.P.

7. The Federation will seek an assurance from the Forestry Dept. for the same management of East Coast wood chip ventures.
8. Probable air and water pollution from any sulphuric acid plant to be established at Burnie was discussed.

Most motions required a letter or letters of action to be drafted and sent to appropriate authorities.

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PAGE 2.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, 20th June 1968 at 7.45 p.m. in the Royal Society Room, Tasmanian Museum, Argyle Street.

Mr M. Sharland will give a talk based on his observations and experiences during his recent overseas trip.

Next Outing:

Sunday, 23rd June 1968. Mr Wall will lead this outing to the South Arm area in search of orchids. Private transport will leave from outside the Prince Theatre, Macquarie Street at 10.00 a.m. Members are advised to bring their food and drink.

Essay Competition for Junior Members:

A book prize will again be given this year to the Junior member who writes the best essay on a natural history topic of his/her own choice. Any Junior wishing to participate should complete his essay and deliver it to any principal office bearer by the 31st October.

The prize will be presented at the November General Meeting.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS as set out below are due on the 1st January each year.

Ordinary members	\$2.50
Junior members (under 16)	\$1.00
Family groups	\$3.50

.....
If you have not paid yours for the current year, the amount you owe will be shown on the dotted line opposite. Unfinancial members will receive no further issues of the Bulletin until payment has been received by the Treasurer.

New Members:

At the May meeting nominations were received for Mrs I. Lea and also for Peter and Jonathan Lea.

Mr A. Cruickshank was duly elected to membership.

Conservation and All That:

I suppose that it would be fair to say that all the following organisations fly the flag for conservation as a part of their normal activities in one way or another. We have the South-West Committee, the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Scenery Preservation Board, the Animals and Birds Protection Board, that is, the Fauna Board, the National Parks Board, the Federation of Field Naturalists' Clubs, the Tasmanian Flora and Fauna Conservation Committee, the Tasmanian Conservation Trust.

If you are now racking your brain to think of one I've missed out, or if you are checking the list for incorrect titles, then I am pleased - it means you are more conservation minded than the average citizen. But I think you are wasting your time somewhat. From a public relations point of view there are too many such groups for their own individual good. Basically they are all pressure groups shouting each other down in order to claim public attention.

As an amateur conservationist, I can distinguish only two 'species' on one hand the Government-backed bodies seeking to enlighten the masses, and on the other, those organisations composed of concerned citizens seeking to enlighten and influence Governmental departments.

Although there is considerable cooperation between both sides, plenty of evidence of healthy competition exists. For instance, the formation of the Save Lake Peddar Committee was closely followed by the Government's establishment of its Interdepartmental Committee to restore the balance of power and opinion.

There will invariably be conflict between those desiring short term profits from the exploitation of natural assets and those wanting long term benefits.

The energies of active conservationists should be used in seeking satisfactory working solutions which are in the best long term interests of the community, rather than in running from one committee room to another. Hence amalgamation of committees would result in increased efficiency.

Conservation may be likened to a vigorously developing tree which currently bears some healthy branches. Would the pruning of extraneous laterals yield bigger and better fruit?

G.A. Major.

Mr. & Mrs. D.E. Wall,
63 Elphinstone Road,
NORTH HOBART, TAS.

7000.

#126 18.9.67
Madame President,

With reference to the section of this month's Bulletin headed "Conservation & all that" I feel that, in fairness to those organizations mentioned therein, a number of mis-statements and misconceptions should be corrected.

Taking the bodies in order of mention :-

The South West Committee was formed in 1963 for the planned development - i.e. conservation in its widest sense - of the south west area of Tasmania, with particular emphasis on the establishment of a large-scale national park and wilderness area. The committee consists of delegates from 13 organizations with varying interests in the south west.

The Australian Conservation Foundation was inaugurated about 2 years ago and has its headquarters in Canberra. Its aims are conservation of natural resources on a Federal basis. It invites individual membership and has no State branches.

Scenery Preservation Board is a Tasmanian Governmental body, established by Act of Parliament to administer all scenic reserves and national parks throughout the State. It has subsidiary boards, of members working on a voluntary basis, which control the larger reserves such as Cradle Mt.-Lake St. Clair, Mt. Field National Park, Port Arthur, etc.

Animals & Birds Protection Board is a Tasmanian Governmental body established by Act of Parliament to control all native and some introduced fauna throughout the State. Of recent years, particularly under the chairmanship of Dr. E. Guiler, it has done much research into a number of species. The appointment last year of Mr. J. Hemsley as Curator of Wildlife was a step of major importance in its programme.

National Parks Board - I am not aware of any such organization in Tasmania.

Federation of Field Naturalists Clubs - a federation of clubs the members of which are primarily interested in the study and observation of native fauna and flora, largely from an amateur standpoint. The support of conservation of natural resources is an accepted part of this interest.

Tas. Fauna & Flora Conservation Committee was formed in 1951 and consists of delegates from Hobart Walking Club, Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club, R.S.P.C.A., R.A.O.U., and Youth Hostel Assn. It arose from the fight of conservation-minded people against the Government Bill to alienate a large part of Mt. Field National Park, known as the Florentine Forest, for commercial interests. The committee succeeded in getting a large area of mixed forest in exchange. It continued to function because of the obvious need for such a body to promote the ideals of conservation in the State. It was active in campaigns on such issues as commercial sealing at Macquarie Island Sanctuary, the establishment of Rocky Cape reserve, quarry leases within Coles Bay reserve, etc. It was also responsible for the original draft of developmental planning in the South West which it duly passed on to the South West Committee.

Tasmanian Conservation Trust was inaugurated & an executive committee elected in May this year. The Trust is open to public membership and its object is the promotion of the wise use and conservation of natural resources, including wild life, throughout the State.

Governmental Interdepartmental Committee was appointed in 1966 by the Government to report on various aspects of possible development in the South West of Tasmania. The South West Committee twice sought representation on it, and although this was favoured by the Minister for Lands & Works (MR. Cashion) it was refused by Cabinet. This Committee ceased to exist once its report was tabled in Parliament in July 1967.

Save Lake Pedder Committee was formed in 1967 in the north of the State and open to public membership, to conduct a lively campaign against the proposed flooding of part of the Lake Pedder National Park by the Gordon River Hydro Electric Power Scheme.

Regarding the rest of the article :-

In Par. 2 the statement that "there are too many such groups for their own individual good. Basically they are all pressure groups shouting each other down in order to claim public attention." may be the private opinion of the writer. I fail to see any justification for such a statement.

Par. 3 I disagree that "Government-backed bodies (are) seeking to enlighten the masses". Their prime job is to administer the reserves and fauna, although education of the public in conservation matters should be a function - if the Government would grant the money.

Par. 4 is quite without foundation.

Par. 6 As one who was active in the 3 year fight against the Florentine Forest - Mt. Field Park Bill in 1949-51 and has been involved in most conservation issues ever, since, I feel that this paragraph gives scant acknowledgement of the amount of solid work which has been done by a large number of people throughout the State in the promotion of Conservation. Almost without exception, they are busy people in other spheres of life and certainly have no time to waste in unnecessary "running from one committee room to another.

In the last Par. the writer appears to have his botanical specimen upside down. What he takes to be "extraneous laterals" are in fact strong roots of several varieties.

If any reduction in the number of varieties or bodies is to be made, one of the first must surely be the merging of the two Government-appointed boards - it seems illogical to have one board administering fauna and another board its habitat. However this merger can only come about by us - the electors - electing to Parliament members sufficiently interested in conservation to pass the necessary Acts.

The other possible merger - which may ultimately come about - is that of the original conservation body, the Tas. Fauna & Flora Conservation Comm. - with the newly-formed Conservation Trust, but at the moment the Fauna & Flora people have too much business on their plate to worry about that.

Finally I must express my regret and concern that such a statement, made without full knowledge or checking of facts, should be circulated in the official Bulletin of this Club. As there is no proviso to the contrary, it would appear that the statement was issued with the full approval of the Executive Committee.

In fairness to the associations mentioned in the statement I would ask that a correction - based perhaps on the information I have given - be printed in the next circular, so that it will reach those members who are not present tonight.

G. S. Luckman

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Next Meeting:

Thursday, 18th July 1968 at 7.45 p.m. in the Royal Society Room, Tasmanian Museum, Argyle Street.

Mr A. Nightingale will speak about "Developments in Astronomy" and will illustrate his talk with slides and a film. Visitors are welcome.

Next Outing:

Saturday, 20th July. Mrs Thorpe will lead this trip to Carlton, leaving by private transport from outside the Prince Theatre, Macquarie Street, at 10.00 a.m. This venue has been chosen partly because shelter will be available in the event of wet weather.

Bird Observers Group:

Next meeting: Friday 26th July, held as usual at the Wireless Institute Room, 147 Liverpool Street, Hobart at 8.00 p.m.

New Members:

Mrs I. Lea, Peter and Jonathan Lea were elected members at the June meeting.

Bulletin Articles:

The views expressed in "Conservation and All That" (Bulletin 126), "Pesticides", etc., are not necessarily those of the Committee. Comments and additional information are invited from readers.

G.A.M.

Pesticides:

(G.A. Major.)

The word 'pesticide' was coined about twenty years ago when synthetic organic chemicals aimed at decimating unwanted pests were being developed. Because of their proven effectiveness they are currently popular, and widely used.

Most, however, have two undesirable properties.

Firstly, they are very resistant to natural breakdown into less toxic substances under the influence of sun, air and water, meanwhile presenting a high risk to non target plants and animals. Those most resistant to natural decomposition are the chlorinated hydrocarbons, e.g. D.D.T., B.H.C. (lindane), aldrin, dieldrin, endrin and chlordane.

Secondly, these compounds are more soluble in fat than in water, and accumulate in animal body fats often impairing fertility. D.D.T. residues of 6.44 parts per million (p.p.m.) occur in the eggs and chicks of the carnivorous Bermuda petrel. Reproduction in this species has declined at the rate of 3.25% per year in the last ten years, and at the present rate will fail completely by 1978.

It is unfortunate that one of the worst offenders for detrimental side effects, D.D.T., was one of the first pesticides developed - before the hazards of these chemicals were realised.

Here are a few more recent findings:-

D.D.T. and its metabolite D.D.E. are found in human body fat. In one German study D.D.T. concentration was 12 p.p.m., the men containing 11% more than the women. This was tentatively correlated with their higher intake of (D.D.T.-contaminated) food.

In India chlorinated hydrocarbons have been found in cosmetics based on lanolin, i.e. sheep wool fat.

As a result of their ready evaporation with water from the surfaces of marshes and soils, as well as from spraying operations, the chlorinated hydrocarbons associate with particulate matter in the atmosphere and become widely distributed. Being fat soluble, they concentrate in sea plankton and via food chains are now found in seals, porpoises and penguins' blubber in concentrations higher than in man, although they live remote from the site of application.

Three mutton birds, probably from Tasmanian waters, were among other sea birds collected from Monterey Bay, California, during their northern migration last year. Their body fat assayed 8 p.p.m. D.D.T., as much as that from the Californian birds.

D.D.T. production in U.S. during 1966 was about 70,000 tons, much of it going to the tropics for anti-malarial application. As yet the effect of heavy D.D.T. spraying on tropical wild life has not been assessed.

Some authorities have now realised the hazards posed by pesticides. For example, the Dutch Government has restricted the use of aldrin, dieldrin & heptachlor. It has banned their use on summer grains on which birds feed (e.g. corn), but still permits their use on winter crops. After 1969 Japan will ban the use of two lethal pesticides parathion & tetraethyl pyrophosphate. At least since 1963 Californian milk has been monitored for pesticide residues: if the milk contains more than 1 p.p.m., the feed is immediately analysed. If it contains over .5 p.p.m. D.D.T., regulations forbid its use as dairy feed. West Germany has placed restrictions on the use of pesticides on imported Tasmanian apples. What of the Tasmanian consumers?

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Next Meeting:

Thursday, 15th August 1968 at 7.45 p.m. in the Royal Society Room, Tasmanian Museum, Argyle Street.

Mrs B. Angel will give a nature talk illustrated with slides.

Next Outing:

Saturday, 17th August 1968. This will be led by Mrs Angel to a site yet to be specified, starting by private transport from outside the Prince Theatre, Macquarie Street at 10.00 a.m.

Essay Competition:

This is a reminder to junior members about the book prize which is to be awarded for the best essay on any natural history topic. The essay should be completed and passed in to one of the principal office bearers by 31st October. The prize will be presented at the November meeting.

Federation News:

A quarterly report dated 10th June, 1968 has been received from the Federation of Field Naturalists' Clubs of Tasmania. This outlines some of the developments which have taken place since the March Annual General Meeting. The full report is, of course, available to readers, but it includes the following:-

- (1) Rocky Cape Scenic Reserve: Burnie Field Naturalists have received notices from the Scenery Preservation Board, and will erect these to define the Reserve.
- (2) Linda - Grotty Track: The Premier has refused to make the track available for public use.
- (3) Wood Chip Industry: This is to be operated on a sustained yield basis, thus implying reforestation etc.
- (4) Pollution of Savage & Picman Rivers: This does not now occur since the tailings dam is operating successfully.
- (5) Breeding & Release of Pheasants on the Mainland of Tasmania: The Minister for Lands & Works has been asked to consider the strong objections which have been lodged.
- (6) Pesticides: Considerable correspondence has been received on this topic. It appears that local officialdom is complacent. No survey of pesticides in wild-life has been done. The University Chemistry Department has offered to cooperate with advice and assistance if such a survey were contemplated.

Information Sought:

An article on the effect of pesticides in Victoria appeared in a recent edition of "Your Garden" magazine. It concluded with the following appeal:-

"If you have first-hand knowledge of bird species suffering from the effects of toxic pesticides in your district, send detailed information to: Mrs Barbara Salter, 45 Tulip St., Black Rock, 3193.

Did You Know That?:

The skin pouch of a pelican's lower beak can, when stretched, hold between 2 and 3 gallons of water - that is, a generous bucketfull.

A poll of "Wildlife" readers in December 1967 concerning which bird should be chosen as the Australian National Emblem resulted in the following count: Kookaburra 77 votes, Lyrebird - 20, Wagtail - 19, Emu - 13, Wedgetail Eagle 2, Black Swan - 8, Blue Wren - 5, Bellbird - 5, Magpie - 4 votes.

'Acacia' (= wattle) was the name of an ancient Egyptian species noted for the longlasting quality of its timber.

Dead roots from trees can be treated to resemble driftwood thus:- wash in hot soapy water, rinse, resoak, peel and bleach. Allow to dry in hot sun. Repeat the bleaching if necessary.

Spiders, unlike insects, do not have a separate head: the body is divided into two parts - a prosoma and the abdomen.

The eyeballs of a frog retract while at rest; when fully depressed, they help push food down the frog's throat.

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by post as a periodical

M.S.R. SHARLAND ESQ.
1 ERINA PLACE,
HOBART.

7000.

RECEIVED
NOV 10 1907

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Next Meeting:

Thursday, 19th September 1968 at 7.45pm in the Royal Society Room, Tasmanian Museum, Argyle Street.
Miss A. Green, who now works at the Museum, will show slides on New Zealand natural history.

Next Outing:

Saturday, 21st September. This will be to Gunners Quoin. Intending participants should either catch the Risdon Vale bus which leaves the city at 9.30 a.m. from Diocesan Bk Depot, Murray Street, and get off at Stop 22, or travel independently to Stop 22 (at the Risdon ferry turnoff). Mr Escott will show the way. There will be about 4½ miles of easy walking. It is anticipated to return by the 4.30p.m. bus.

Bird Observers Group:

Next meeting at Wireless Institute Room, 147 Liverpool St., Hobart, at 8p.m. on Friday, 27th September. There will be an open discussion on 'Tasmanian Hawks' led by Mr J.H. Hemsley, Curator of Wildlife.

Reference Books Request:

The Ranger at Mt Field National Park is anxious to learn more about Tasmanian natural history, especially of his area. If anyone has relevant text books on botany or zoology which he would be willing to give the Ranger, would he please pass them on directly to him, or through us?

Burnie Field Naturalists Club:

Will be host club to the delegates of the Federation of Field Naturalists on a special outing to Rocky Cape on Sunday, 15th September. Meat, bread & sauce will be provided for a barbecue at a small extra charge. Further details available from G.A. Major.

Conservation and All That:

Written commentaries on the article in the T.F.N.C. Bulletin, June 1968 have been received by the Secretary. The following is by Mr L.E. Wall:-

"The suggestions contained in the notes contain some inaccuracies which should be straightened out. The Scenery Preservation Board, the Fauna Board, and the National Park Boards are all charged with specific duties which were formulated long before the modern term 'Conservation' came into prominence, and they should not, as they are at present constituted, be considered as Conservation Bodies. (This should be a challenge to conservationists.) The Aust. Conservation Foundation is a national body which does not want to become embroiled in local politics and has plenty to do in its own broad sphere. The Tas. Cons. Trust might certainly take over much of the work being done by others like the Federation of F.N.C. of Tas., but it would be foolish for all other bodies to vacate the field until the Trust has proved itself. Amalgamation of committees at this stage would be most unwise."

The below is taken from Mrs J.S. Luckman's commentary:-

"In Par. 2 the statement that 'there are too many such groups for their own individual good. Basically they are all pressure groups shouting each other down in order to claim public attention.' may be the private opinion of the writer. I fail to see any justification for such a statement. Par. 3 I disagree that 'Government-backed bodies (are) seeking to enlighten the masses'. Their prime job is to administer the reserves and fauna, although education of the public in conservation matters should be a function - if the Government would grant the money.

Par. 4 is quite without foundation.

Par. 6 I feel that this paragraph gives scant acknowledgement of the amount of solid work which has been done by a large number of people throughout the State in the promotion of Conservation....

..... If any reduction in the number of varieties or bodies is to be made, one of the first must surely be the merging of the two Government-appointed boards - it seems illogical to have one board administering fauna and another board its habitat. However this merger can only come about by us - the electors - electing to Parliament members sufficiently interested in conservation to pass the necessary Acts. The other possible merger - which may ultimately come about - is that of the original conservation body, the Tas. Fauna & Flora Conservation Comm. - with the newly formed Conservation Trust, but at the moment the Fauna & Flora people have too much business on their plate to worry about that."

Did You Know That?:

Vanilla is the fruit of a tropical plant of the orchid family, grown in Mexico, Madagascar and the East Indies. The dried pod is used for flavouring.

A dibbler is a small (about 6" long) grey-brown carnivorous marsupial, thought to be extinct. A pair was found in W.A. last year, 83 years after the last known sighting. Skins can be seen in museums of Eastern mainland states.

TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB.

G.P.O. Box 68A,
Hobart. 7001.

* Principal Office Bearers *

President:

Mrs T.L. Stephens,
11 Hazell Street,
Blackman's Bay. 7152.

Secretary:

Mr G.A. Major,
The Embers,
23 Riverview Parade,
Rosetta. 7010.

Treasurer:

Mr L.E. Wall,
63 Elphinstone Road,
North Hobart. 7000.

BULLETIN OF THE TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB.

PRICE 20 CENTS P.A.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, 17th October 1968 at 7.45 p.m. in the Royal Society Room, Tasmanian Museum, Argyle Street.
The acting senior agronomist in the noxious weed section of the Department of Agriculture, Mr B.H. Hyde-Wyatt, will give an illustrated talk on "Noxious Weeds in Tasmania".
All interested persons are invited to attend.

Next Outing:

Saturday, October 19th, 1968. Miss E. Warren will lead this outing to Mortimer Bay (near Sandford)- recently declared a serrated tussock quarantine area. Private transport will leave from outside the Prince Theatre, Macquarie Street at 10 a.m. It would be appreciated if those members who are able to help with transport by taking their own cars would do so.

Tasmanian Conservation Trust:

On Saturday, 2nd November the Tasmanian Conservation Trust will hold a Symposium at the Physics Theatre at the University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay. The Australian Conservation Foundation is giving its full support to this Symposium and the principal guest speaker will be Professor Gustav Adolph Swanson from Columbia University. Professor Swanson has played a leading role in conservation in the United States for a number of years. Visitors will be welcome.

Camping Gear:

(The end of organised Club camps!)
This Club's camping gear will be for sale at 10am on Saturday, 23rd November, 1968. The public auction will be conducted by Burns and Son at the home of Mr Sargison, 33 Mortimer Avenue, New Town, where the gear is kept. It will be necessary to display the goods to be auctioned to best advantage, and for this purpose male help will be required at the above address after work on Tuesday, 19th November to erect a marquee and several tents on the lawn, and to arrange many of the smaller items inside for inspection. The November outing which would normally have been held on the 23rd has been cancelled and all members are asked to assist in disposing of the now little-used camping equipment. Would members meanwhile publicise the event as much as possible please?

Scenery Preservation and Wildlife Act:

The legislation to be introduced during October on likely changes to the Scenery Preservation Act was discussed at a recent meeting of this Club's Committee. As a result a letter has been forwarded to the Federation of Field Naturalists' Clubs and to the North West committee of conservationists. It expresses the following attitude:-

The Committee of this Club considers that the full integration of the Scenery Preservation Board and the Animals and Birds Protection Board as recommended last year by the Legislative Council Select Committee is of essential and primary importance in making any improvement in the administration of Parks, Reserves and wild life in this State. Nothing less than this step can be considered as a satisfactory arrangement. Also, such a combined Board should be directly responsible to a Minister of the Crown, and not to the head of some Government department as the Scenery Preservation Board is at present.

Trees:

"Forests of Australia", a very interesting book by Alexander Rule, was published last year. Among many other interesting facts and splendid photographs it gives the reason why the valuable red cedar of Queensland and Northern N.S.W. has not yet been grown in plantations. Although the tree bears a profuse crop of fertile seeds which germinate readily and whose young plants grow rapidly, it is then attacked by the red cedar twig-borer. The larva of this moth attacks the leading shoot and bores down the centre of the stem causing it to die back. Repeated attacks retard growth, cause malformation of the stem and sometimes result in death. Until a solution to this problem is found, perhaps in the production of a resistant strain of cedar, the economics of such plantations is seriously affected.

Did You Know That?:

A bird has hollow bones which reduce its weight.

Human tears contain sodium chloride (salt), sodium bicarbonate and an enzyme which has a destructive effect upon bacteria.

An average diet is more likely to lack vitamin D than any other vitamin; it occurs in egg yolk, cod-liver oil and cream.

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May the message of Christmas bring joy to your heart;

May the New Year be happy for you from the start.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, 21st November 1968 at 7.45 p.m. in the Royal Society Room, Tasmanian Museum, Argyle Street.
 Dr P.S. Lake from the Zoology Dept of the Tasmanian University will be the speaker. His talk is entitled "Aspects of Water Pollution". He will discuss in particular some of the biological effects of
 (i) pesticides (insecticides), and
 (ii) heavy metals as agents of pollution.

Auction of Camp Gear:

Saturday, 23rd November, 1968 commencing at about 10.00 a.m. at Mr Sargison's residence, 33 Mortimer Ave., New Town.
 It will be necessary to have all the items displayed beforehand for the benefit of both the auctioneer and the prospective buyers. It has NOT been possible to arrange for this to be done on Tuesday, 19th as was stated in the last Bulletin, and it is now likely that we will do this in the early evening of Friday, 22nd November. If you are able to assist in the displaying of gear at any time prior to the auction would you please let the Secretary know as soon as possible? Your help would be greatly appreciated. Phone: 8 0111 (ext.273) - business.
 72 6723 - private.

Bird Observers Group:

The next meeting will be on 29th November at the Wireless Institute Room, Liverpool Street. A discussion will be held on "Common Names of Birds".

Essay Competition:

Dr Bryden from The Museum has judged the entries submitted in this year's competition for Junior members, and has awarded the prize to Nigel Brothers. The prize will be presented at the next meeting.
 Although the number of entries was small, the standard was high. Nigel's project on "Lambert Park" particularly impressed Dr Bryden.

New Members:

Nominations for membership have been received from Mr & Mrs Linton-Coombe.

Annual General Meeting:

After the November meeting and the auction there will be no further Club function until the Annual General Meeting on the third Thursday in February - the 20th. In the meantime we shall be able to watch the passage of the Scenery Preservation and Wildlife Act through Parliament.

Exchange Publications:

This Club receives those publications corresponding to our Tasmanian 'Naturalist', but produced by Field Naturalists Clubs of other states. The July 1968 issue of the North Queensland Naturalist contains an interesting article about Zambia (ex North Rhodesia) by Joan Wright. For example:- "Zambia has natural and artificial lakes, just as North Queensland has. Lake Kariba, formed by the damming of the Zambesi River where it flows through a narrow, rocky and exceedingly hot gorge, is a vast inland sea.... It has changed the local weather by evaporation from its huge surface and may even have caused some earth tremors by its weight.... Kariba is used for hydro-electric power exclusively..... Blue gums have been introduced into many parts of Zambia for making straight poles. African trees are very poor pole-producers because they are hacked at by the Bantu and crippled every year by bush fires. The umbrella tree here seems to me to be unique and characteristic of the small rain-forest trees..."

(Ed. note: May I include a portion of a Sept. letter from my parents who are at present living in Lusaka, Zambia. - "...It amazes me how the trees continue to live & produce blossom. The city is a mass of jacaranda trees in full bloom; they are a beautiful sight. The flamboyant trees are just coming into flower, there is another tree covered with bronze coloured flowers, and the brightest coloured bougainvillea covers everything. The sight down some of the streets just takes my breath away - and yet at the Garden Club meeting the other night the members were wishing they could get seeds of Australian flowering gums - a case of distant fields seem greener?" G.A.M.)

The South Australian Naturalist of June 1968 contains information on the efforts of the S.A. Field Nats to reserve a National Park for the Hairy-Nosed Wombat in Blanchetown Area. "The wombat, a native marsupial, which formerly inhabited large areas of the State, has now been exterminated in all but a very few localities. Two species of wombats are found in S. A. - the smooth nosed species & the hairy nosed species. The preservation of the latter is the responsibility of S.A. because its habitat is now confined almost entirely to this State...."



